



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

**22 VAC 40-730 – Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect in Out of Family Complaints
Department of Social Services
June 8, 2011**

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The State Board of Social Services (Board) proposes to amend its regulations that govern the investigation of child abuse and neglect in out of family complaints to make definitions and regulatory language consistent between these regulations and regulations that govern child protective services (CPS) (22 VAC 40 -705).

Result of Analysis

Benefits likely outweigh costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

Current language in the Board's regulations that govern the investigation of child abuse and neglect in out of family complaints is stylistically, but not substantively, inconsistent with the language in its CPS regulations. Since all child abuse complaints must be investigated in a manner that is consistent with the CPS regulations, the Board proposes to modify definitions and regulatory language in these proposed regulations so that they mirror the CPS regulations. For instance, the Board proposes to change every reference to "complain" to read "valid complaint" instead and propose to use the word "department" instead of "agency" because that is the phrasing used in the CPS regulations.

All of the changes that are proposed for these regulations will harmonize the language used with that in the CPS regulations but will not change any investigatory practices. Consequently, no affected entity is likely to incur any costs on account of these regulatory changes. The clarity that these changes bring will, however, benefit individuals who found the language differences between the regulations confusing.

Businesses and Entities Affected

These proposed regulatory changes will affect all 120 local Departments of Social Services.

Localities Particularly Affected

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

Projected Impact on Employment

This proposed regulatory action is unlikely to have any effect on employment in the Commonwealth.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

These proposed regulatory changes are unlikely to affect the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

No small business is likely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

No small business is likely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Real Estate Development Costs

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the Board the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private

property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.